

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 EB-07 CU-02 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /082 W

----- 052839

R 091222Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8279

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 08852

GENEVA FOR US CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, FR

SUBJECT: CZECH FONMIN CHNOUPEK'S VISIT TO PARIS

1. SUMMARY: CZECH FONMIN CHNOUPEK'S VISIT TO PARIS, THE  
FIRST AT THAT LEVEL SINCE 1964, SERVED ITS PURPOSE OF  
PROVIDING NEW IMPETUS TO LAGGING FRENCH-CZECH RELATIONS.

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END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI EASTERN EUROPEAN SECTION CHIEF LEQUERTIER TELLS US THAT CZECH FONMIN CHNOUPEK'S VISIT TO PARIS, APRIL 3-4 WAS MINOR LANDMARK IN THAT IT WAS FIRST CZECH VISIT AT THAT LEVEL SINCE 1964. THOUGHT WAS GIVEN TO A FONMIN VISIT FOR 1973 DURING FRENCH-CZECH POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN 1972. HOWEVER, FRENCH FONMIN JOBERT CANCELLED IN RESPONSE CZECH ATTACKS ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN PACIFIC THAT YEAR. PRESENT VISIT WAS RESULT PERSONAL INITIATIVE BY FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES WHO INVITED CHNOUPEK AT UN LAST OCTOBER. SAUVAGNARGUES INTENDED VISIT MARK GENERAL REVITALIZATION CZECH-FRENCH RELATIONS IN ALL RESPECTS.

3. ALTHOUGH UNSPECTACULAR, CHNOUPEK'S TRIP TO FRANCE APPEARS TO HAVE SERVED THIS END. HIS AUDIENCE WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, LARGELY DEVOTED TO REVIEW FRENCH-CZECH ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AS WELL AS HIS WORKING SESSIONS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES LEFT GENERALLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION AND LAID BASIS FOR FURTHER FRENCH-CZECH CONTACTS.

4. BILATERAL ISSUES: ECONOMIC RELATIONS:

FRENCH, WHO CURRENTLY RANK ONLY SEVENTH OR EIGHTH AMONG CZECH'S WESTERN TRADE PARTNERS, AND WHOSE EXPORTS AMOUNT TO ONLY ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF THOSE OF FRG, WERE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT TALKS PROVIDE NEW IMPETUS FOR FRENCH-CZECH FOREIGN TRADE. TO THIS END, CHNOUPEK DISCUSSIONS REPORTEDLY FACILITATED UPCOMING FINAL NEGOTIATIONS OF A TEN-YEAR ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, WHICH FRENCH NOW HOPE CAN BE SIGNED IN PRAGUE IN MAY. TO EMPHASIZE THEIR INTEREST IN THIS FIELD, FRENCH RECENTLY RAISED THEIR REPRESENTATION IN THE MIXED COMMISSION BY A NOTCH, AND WILL NOW BE REPRESENTED BY CHRISTIAN D'AUMALE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC BUREAU AT MFA. CHNOUPEK, FOR HIS PART, IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD FRENCH THAT CZECHS WOULD SHORTLY ADOPT A LAW PERMITTING ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS OF WESTERN FIRMS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

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5. CULTURAL RELATIONS

IN THIS FIELD, FRENCH ASKED FOR INCREASE IN FRENCH LANGUAGE STUDY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND HIGHER LEVELS OF STUDENT EXCHANGE. ALTHOUGH CHNOUPEK RESPONDED BY STRESSING "OPENNESS" OF CZECH SOCIETY, AND EVEN SAID THAT HE HAD "NO TROUBLE WHATEVER" WITH WESTERN POSITIONS

ON BASKET III IN CSCE, FURTHER DISCUSSION WAS DEFERRED  
TO FRENCH-CZECH CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD  
IN PRAGUE TOWARD END OF YEAR. HOWEVER, AGREEMENT WAS  
REACHED FOR RECIPROCAL OPENING OF NEW READING ROOMS, A  
FRENCH ONE IN BRATISLAVA AND A CZECH ONE IN PARIS.

6. CONSULATES

MOST INTERESTING TO FRENCH WAS CHNOUPEK'S REQUEST THAT  
THEY ALSO RE-OPEN THEIR CONSULATE AT BRATISLAVA, IN

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CHNOUPEK'S HOME STATE OF SLOVAKIA, WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED SINCE 1951. CHNOUPEK STRESSED IMPORTANCE "SLOVAKIA" ATTACHED TO OPENING OF WESTERN CONSULATES THERE, AND REFERRED TO PLANS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD, INCLUDING THE U.S. HOWEVER, IN RETURN, CHNOUPEK ASKED FOR CZECH CONSULATE IN MARSEILLES, A REQUEST WHICH IMMEDIATELY RAISED HACKLES OF FRENCH SECURITY SERVICES, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHO DO NOT WANT ADDITIONAL COMMUNIST REPRESENTATION IN THAT SENSITIVE PORT. AS A RESULT, QUAI EXPECTS ENTIRE ISSUE TO BE DEFERRED.

#### 7. INVITATIONS

THE LONGER-TERM SIGNIFICANCE OF CHNOUPEK'S VISIT FOR EXPANDED CZECH-FRENCH RELATIONS WAS PROBABLY BEST REFLECTED IN FAIRLY EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF FUTURE INVITATIONS. CHNOUPEK INVITED BOTH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES, AND RENEWED LONG LIST OF PREVIOUS INVITATIONS TO VARIOUS FRENCH MINISTERS. CHIRAC AND SAUVAGNARGUES HAVE ACCEPTED, WITHOUT FIXING PRECISE DATES.

#### 8. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WAS CONFINED TO CSCE, ON WHICH BOTH SIDES TOOK STANDARD POSITIONS. THERE WAS ALSO SHORT EXCHANGE ON VIETNAM AND CYPRUS. WE ARE TOLD CHNOUPEK TOOK GREAT CARE TO TREAT ALL THESE SUBJECTS WITH "DELICATESSE", WHICH HIS FRENCH HOSTS THOUGHT WAS IN PLEASANT CONTRAST TO CURRENTLY SOMETIMES ROUGHER APPROACHES TAKEN IN RUDE PRAVO. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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